



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Man Who Ran International Prostitution Ring Sentenced

(U) A San Mateo man who orchestrated a Bay Area prostitution ring that trafficked women from overseas to work in makeshift brothels was sentenced to nearly four years in prison Tuesday, federal prosecutors said. Allen Fong, 60, admitted that from August 2006 to July 2014, he ran the day-to-day operations of a series of brothels in the east bay area, according to the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. He set up prostitution advertisements, and he acted as landlord for the brothels — paying their rent and electricity, staying up to date on telephone bills and handling the water payments. Fong would then transfer thousands of dollars at a time to associates in Singapore, who would funnel the proceeds of the illicit enterprise that trafficked "girls" from Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

SOURCE: 15 February 2017, [SF Gate](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona – Drug Catapult Found at US-Mexico Border

(U) Douglas – Border Patrol agents in southern Arizona say they've seized two bundles of marijuana that were catapulted across the border from Mexico. While patrolling an area east of the Douglas Port of Entry last week, agents noticed several people running from the border fence as they approached. They reported finding a catapult system attached to the south side of the fence and two bundles of marijuana, weighing more than 47 pounds combined. Federal authorities say in recent years, smugglers have thrown drug bundles over the border or shot them over with devices such as air-powered cannons and catapults.

SOURCE: 15 February 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) Michigan – 16 People Arrested in Sex Trafficking Stings During Detroit Auto Show

(U) Detroit – More than a dozen people were arrested throughout Detroit last month in a sex trafficking sting during the North American International Auto Show. The FBI and local police from about a dozen agencies were targeting human traffickers during the show, a time that officials say they find a 150 percent increase in individuals posting online solicitation messages on escort-type websites. FBI Detroit spokesman Tim Wiley said that 16 people were arrested, four pimps were identified and two children were recovered. Wiley says there were 14 potential victims identified through the sting.

SOURCE: 14 February 2017, [CBS Detroit](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Saudi Arabia – Authorities Arrest 18 ISIL Fighters

(U) Riyadh – The spokesman of the Saudi Interior Ministry says security authorities have arrested 18 suspects belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including bomb makers. He added that the suspects carried out different roles including logistical operations and recruitment, as well as providing shelter and financial support to the militants. Saudi Arabia has been targeted by a number of

deadly suicide bombings and other attacks claimed by ISIL in recent years. The country is part of the US-led coalition fighting the group in Iraq and Syria.

SOURCE: 16 February 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria – Syrian Jihadist Execute Scores of Fighters

(U) Damascus – Syrian Islamist fighters have executed scores of insurgents in the west of the country in an increasingly bloody battle between different militant groups, the SITE Intelligence Group said. An offshoot of the Jund al-Aqsa group killed more than 150 members of rebel factions in the village of Khan Sheikhoun in southern Idlib province, the US-based monitoring service reported yesterday. Dozens of those executed were members of a Free Syrian Army (FSA) faction, it said, citing a pro-al Qa'ida social media outlet. Jund al-Aqsa is seen as ideologically close to Islamic State, al Qa'ida's main jihadist rival.

SOURCE: 16 February 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Yahoo Issues New Security Warning to Users

(U) London – Yahoo is warning users of potentially malicious activity on their accounts between 2015 and 2016. It's the latest development in the internet company's investigation of a mega-breach that exposed 1 billion users' data several years ago. It's not clear how many users were affected by the malicious activity, which involved the use of forged cookies — strings of data which can be used to allow people to access online accounts without re-entering their passwords. Yahoo said in a statement issued yesterday that its investigation "has identified user accounts for which we believe forged cookies were taken or used. Yahoo is in the process of notifying all potentially affected account holders."

SOURCE: 15 February 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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